1912

Dear Board

WOMAN'S BOARD.

By Miss Julia Fraser, Secretary.

This Board was organized in 1878 to do a specific work, later defined as "the support of missionary teachers, schools, Bible readers, evangelists and medical missionaries; the erection, equipment and maintenance of necessary buildings; the diffusion of information in regard to Home Missions."

The mission schools are located among the Alaskans, Indians, Mormons, Mexicans, Mountaineers of the South, in Porto Rico and Cuba and among the Immigrant Populations. A few years after the work was inaugurated, General Assembly directed that through this agency money for the Freedmen's Board should be received, credited and transmitted to the offices of that Board in Pittsburg. Last year the Woman's Board received and forwarded $84,491.92. The Woman's Board also continued its custom of allowing the April Number of its official publication, the "Home Mission Monthly", to be used to advertise the work among the Freedmen and it does not present to its constituency a study topic of its own in that month.

The work of the Woman's Board has grown marvelously - both in the fields it covers, ~~and in the variety of its work~~. No field has been entered except on the recommendation of General Assembly and the very hearty and cordial support of this body is most keenly appreciated. The commendation of the last Assembly was especially happy, as the following quotation from the report of Standing Committee on Home Missions will show:-

"We come with pronounced pleasure to discuss the work of the Woman's Board. No Church is blessed and aided by more consecrated, self-sacrificing, persevering women than our own. The Woman's Board, and the women under the Board, have demonstrated an untiring spirit and a successful zeal. They have raised in round numbers during the past year about $557,000.00. The work done by the Woman's Board in the different fields in which it labors is unparalleled in efficiency, consecration and results. Every encouragement that can be given by the Board of Home Missions should be given to the women, and they should be encouraged, aided and supported financially and in every other way, in all of their undertakings."

Last year there were 159 schools and evangelistic stations among the Alaskans, Indians, Mexicans, Mormons, Mountaineers, Foreigners, Porto Ricans and Cubans, entirely supported by the Woman's Board. 417 missionaries and teachers were employed; of these 11 are ordained missionaries of the Board of Home Missions and seven evangelists or native helpers. 760 conversions were reported.

The two great departments of the Woman's Board require clear definition.

(a) It secures through its constituency of 32 Synodical, 243 Presbyterial, and 4,651 Auxiliary societies the funds to finance its varied and extensive work. In the spring of 1910 there were reported 140,000 members in the auxiliary societies forming the Woman's Board. It is estimated that 80% of the Presbyterian women are not affiliated with organized missionary work and it was determined to definitely "seek out, interest and bring into the

society" the "other woman,"--- in other words to double membership. This campaign now in progress all over the country and it is confidently believed that at the Annual Meeting in Louisville in 1912, Doubled Membership will be reported. The aim is 280,000 women definitely enlisted in this greatest of all patriotic and missionary service, by May 1912.

(b) It administers through its School Department the boarding and day schools, the hospitals and the work of the Bible readers. The Superintendent of Schools is David R. Boyd: Assistant Superintendent of Schools is Marshall C. Allaben.

Besides entirely supporting the current work, the Woman's Board has since its organization, accumulated real estate, buildings and equipment valued at $900,000.00, the titles of all of which are held by the Assembly's Board of Home Missions. Building funds as received are deposited in the Trust Company and accumulate a little at a time until the estimated amount for each building is secured, often requiring years. Usually when this stated sum is secured two things have happened; the mission work has so grown that the size of the proposed new building is utterly inadequate, and the cost of both labor and material have so advanced that it is impossible to erect the building for the amount estimated as sufficient several years previous. The constituency naturally become discouraged and disheartened. The great need is a General Building Fund commeasurate to our opportunity for service.

For the year ending March 31st, 1911, the Woman's Board received $556,290.86. Of this

$84,491.92	specified for Freedmen.
14,240.01	transferred to the Board of Home Missions to the account of the Young People's Department.
13,864.10	transferred to the Board of Home Missions for the salaries of missionaries, making a total of $112,595.03 transferred for work of two other Boards of the Church.
$112,595.03	
50.00	permanent funds.
3,364.50	interest on borrowed money.
14,133.03	printing and circulation of literature.
38,864.81	taxes, insurance, travel and administrative expenses.
53,072.08	deposited in Trust Company for new buildings,
$334, 211.41	leaving for support of current mission school work, $334,211.41.

The officers of the Woman's Board are:

Mrs. Darwin R. James, Honorary President.
Mrs. F. S. Bennett, President.
Miss Julia Fraser, Secretary.
Mrs. M. J. Gildersleeve, Associate Secretary.
Miss Dora M. Frisk Acting Treasurer.
Miss M. Josephine Petrie, Young People's Secretary.
Mrs. Delos Edwin Finks, Editon Home Mission Monthly.

~~The greatest need is increasing support for work already established. This year the total should reach $650.000 to meet the cost of current work and impending obligations.~~

Form of Bequest of Woman's Board of Home Missions:-
I give, devise, and bequeath unto "The Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America," incorporated April 19,1872 by Act of Legislature of the State of New York, the sum of..... dollars, the same to be applied to the work of the Woman's Board.

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